

# Graduate Information Session

Masters of Public Administration  
Masters of Public Policy



**Mark Reed, Graduate Academic Advisor**  
**Dr. Stuart Bretschneider, MPA/MPP Program Director**  
**Dr. George Pettit, Coordinator, Marvin Andrews Fellowship Program**

# Why earn an MPA / MPP?



Administrative Supervisor/Manager  
Budget and Fiscal Manager  
Budget Analyst  
Case Manager  
City/County Manager  
City Planner  
Civil Service Supervisors and Managers  
Development Officer/Manager  
Educational Administrators  
Emergency Management Administrator/Manager  
Environmental Policy Analyst  
Executive Assistant

Field Examiner  
Finance Manager  
Foreign Service Officer  
Health Services Manager  
Human Resources Manager  
Law Enforcement Professional  
Legislative Assistant/Analyst  
Management Consultant  
Nonprofit Fundraising Director  
Nonprofit Manager  
Parks and Recreation Manager  
Public Project Coordinator

Public Affairs  
Public Finance Director  
Public Policy Analyst  
Public Programs Director  
Research Analyst  
Technology Manager  
Transportation Manager  
Urban Planning Manager  
Utilities Manager  
Waste Management Manager  
Youth Services Manager

# Focus of ASU's Master of Public Administration (MPA)

## Would you prefer to work with people?

- Focus is on public policy issues in the government or nonprofit sectors.
- **Manage** people, projects and money in a wide variety of organizations including nonprofits, government agencies, international NGOs, social enterprises, and private businesses.
- **Identify** and **solve** problems of democratic governance in public administration at the local, state and national levels. **Create** and **manage** programs and services.
- **Serve** the public through their work in neighborhoods and communities, in urban regions, nationally, and globally.
- **Specific skills:** Problem analysis and solving, coordination, collaboration, communication, leadership, management, and program evaluation

# Focus of Master of Public Policy (MPP)

## Would you prefer to work with data?

- Create policy analysts who can **evaluate** a problem, **analyze** and **interpret** data, and take creative action.
- Emphasizes policy analysis and design, statistics, research methodology, research ethics, microeconomics, public finance, and management of public organizations.
- Learn analytical techniques and conceptual frameworks for understanding policy issues.
- Identifying potential solutions and applying analytical skills to real-world issues—especially relating to the needs of cities/counties in the central Arizona area.
- Gain an understanding of policies related to poverty, housing, education, the environment, science and technology, sustainability, emergency management, and public safety.

- **Skills:**

Defining problems	Understanding the dimensions of complex problems
Assessing needs	Developing research designs and models
Relating theory to practice	Interpreting data
Understanding research findings	Understanding policy reports
Interpreting issues and evidence	Evaluating proposed policy solutions

# MPA or MPP?

## MPA

Create and Implement Programs

Involves social interaction and group management

Prepares graduates for leadership roles

Program management

## MPP

Research Intensive

Statistics-heavy, focus on analysis

Prepares graduates for policy expert and study roles

Program and policy analysis



# From the employers who hire our interns and graduates

- “Today’s public and nonprofit sectors need leaders who are ready to innovate, address challenges, and create meaningful change in public policy. To be effective, you must be skilled in both policy analysis and managerial know-how.”
- “Graduates need skills, perspectives, and nuanced understanding of analysis of public policy to be effective leaders in solving public problems.”
- “An MPA is like an MBA for people who are passionate about enacting social change.”

# From alumni

- “The lessons learned about the day-to-day workings of the federal government have been invaluable.”
- “I learned economics and budgeting from my professors. I am now able to make arguments for the sorts of programs necessary to do my job well.”
- “My studies in public finance, public policy and organizational theory provided me with the ability to understand the bigger picture. I studied grant-writing during my MPA program and have written grants and contributed to grant-writing and program design/development in all of my positions.”
- “There have been countless times where the tools I acquired through the MPP helped me to work through challenging projects and difficult situations. I have also been portrayed as a policy resource within my department.”

# Career Progression of alumni

- Research Associate → Manager of Institutional Research
- Program Coordinator → Operations Director
- Account Executive → Foundation Director
- Legislative Assistant → Policy Director
- Project Coordinator → Senior Housing Developer
- Sales Coordinator → Policy Project Associate
- Ecologist → AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow
- AmeriCorps Member → Project Coordinator



# The School: National Reputation

- The School of Public Affairs is one of the nation's premiere graduate schools in public administration and policy
- According to the *U.S. News and World Report*, the School is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> overall in the nation
- The School is highly ranked in a number specialty areas:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> City Management & Urban Policy
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Information Technology
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Policy & Management
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Nonprofit Management
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Public Finance & Budgeting
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Public Management



# Who We Are: Faculty

- 29 full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty
- Expertise in a diverse range of fields
  - Environmental Policy: Nicole Darnall & Lily Hsueh
  - Science & Technology Policy: Barry Bozeman & Elizabeth Corley
  - Public Budgeting & Finance: Gerald Miller & Akheil Singla
  - Urban Policy: Joanna Lucio, David Swindell & Karen Mossberger
  - Social Policy: Chris Herbst, Spiro Maroulis & Yushim Kim
  - Public Management: Justin Stritch & Stu Bretschneider
- 11 national and international awards since 2011
  - Best Dissertation: Justin Stritch & Chris Herbst
  - 2014 NASPAA/ASPA Distinguished Researcher: Barry Bozeman
  - 2011 Aaron B. Wildavsky (lifetime achievement): Gerald Miller

# Who We Are: Students

- MPA program: 209 students
- MPP program: 45 students
- Student characteristics:
  - 50% Female
  - 50% Male
  - 35% International

# MPA Curriculum

- 42 credit hours
  - 27 credit hours in the core curriculum
  - 15 credit hours in electives
- Core curriculum
  - PAF 501 Public Service Research I
  - PAF 502 Public Service Research II
  - PAF 503 Public Affairs
  - PAF 504 Microeconomics of the Public Sector I
  - PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis
  - PAF 506 Public Budgeting & Finance
  - PAF 507 Public Human Resource Management
  - PAF 508 Organization Behavior
  - PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone

# MPP Curriculum

- 42 credit hours
  - 30 credit hours in the core curriculum
  - 12 credit hours in electives
- Core curriculum
  - PAF 501 Public Service Research I
  - PAF 502 Public Service Research II
  - PAF 504 Microeconomics of the Public Sector I
  - PAF 505 Public Policy Analysis
  - PAF 540 Advanced Policy Analysis
  - PAF 541 Program Evaluation
  - PAF 570 Microeconomics of the Public Sector II
  - PAF 573 Applied Econometrics
  - PAF 574 Diversity, Ethics & Leading Public Change
  - PAF 509 Public Affairs Capstone



# Tailoring Your Program

- MPA concentration areas
  - Nonprofit Administration
  - Urban Management
  - Emergency Management
  - Public Finance
- MPP concentration areas
  - Policy Informatics
  - Science and Technology Policy
  - Environmental Policy
  - Urban Policy
- Create your own concentration

# Certificate Programs

- 15 credit hour program of study
- Two ways to complete a certificate program
  - Stand-alone
  - While enrolled in a graduate degree program
- Certificate programs include
  - Emergency Management
  - Participatory Governance
  - Policy Informatics
  - Public Administration
  - Public Policy

# Program Prerequisites

- Requirements for the MPA and MPP programs
  - American Government (at any time in the past)
  - Statistics (at any time in the past)
- Requirements for the certificate programs
  - No prerequisites except a Bachelors degree with a 3.0 or higher GPA

# Concurrent Degrees

- Concurrent MPA degree options
  - Social Work
  - Criminology and Criminal Justice
  - Sustainability
  - Urban and Environmental Planning
  - American Indian Studies
- Concurrent MPP degree options
  - Criminology and Criminal Justice
  - Sustainability
  - Urban and Environmental Planning
- Create your own concurrent degree program

# Modes of Instruction

- Flexibility in terms of when courses are offered
  - Fall, Spring and Summer sessions
  - In the evening and on the weekend
- Flexibility in terms of how courses are offered
  - In person
  - Online
  - Weekend Intensives

# Cost of Attendance

- For the most current cost of attendance, please see <https://students.asu.edu/costs>
- Funding options
  - FAFSA
  - SPA grants
  - Scholarships (including SPA) and other resources: [spa.asu.edu/content/scholarships](https://spa.asu.edu/content/scholarships)



# Admission Information

- Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis
  - The earlier you apply, the sooner you receive a decision
- Overview of admission criteria
  - Grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the last two years of coursework leading to a bachelor's degree
  - GRE scores on the verbal, quantitative and analytical components
    - LSAT/GMAT scores can be substituted
    - GRE waived for (1) Previous Masters; (2) undergrad GPA of 3.4 or higher (last 60 credits) or (3) if admitted into another graduate program in the College of Public Service and Community Solutions

# How to Apply

- An official ASU Graduate application and application fee
  - Please visit: <http://graduate.asu.edu>
- Official transcripts from the undergraduate college/university in which you received your Bachelors. Also transcripts from colleges/universities in which you took an American Government and/or statistics courses, or in which you earned a Masters degree.

# How to Apply

- Requirements from the School of Public Affairs
  - Three letters of recommendation
    - From faculty (current or former) or work/volunteer supervisors
    - There is no form required for the letters of recommendation
    - On the graduate application, you will list the names and email addresses of your recommenders and they will be contacted directly by ASU. Recommenders will then submit letters via an online form.
  - Written statement of education and career goals
    - Used, in part, to evaluate the applicant's writing ability
    - Statement should be one to two pages in length

# Questions?

- Mark Reed
  - mbreed@asu.edu
  - (602) 496-0450
  - Office location is UCENT 400, Downtown Phoenix Campus
  - Read more at [www.spa.asu.edu](http://www.spa.asu.edu)